

**BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY
EDUCATION
MINUTES OF MEETING
September 11, 2003**

A meeting of the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education was held at the Shepard Building - 255 Westminster Street, Providence, RI 02903 and convened at 5:05 p.m.

In Attendance:

J. DiPrete, J. Gaines, C. Callahan, M. Mancieri, P. Guida, G. Grove, and F. Caprio

Public Remarks

There were no public remarks.

Chairman's Remarks

There were no chairman remarks.

Approval of Increases to GED Testing Fees

RIDE staff member, Bob Mason explained to the Board that currently, the individual application fee to complete the High School Equivalency Test Battery is \$15.00 and from this amount each test center retains \$10.00 and sends \$5.00 to RIDE for preparing and issuing the High School Equivalency Diploma. Test centers use the "retained" funds to cover operating costs, such as renting a test battery, postage, purchase of answer sheets and other testing supplies, and proctoring costs for having testing sessions supervised. Now, because of increases in costs, such as the increase in the battery lease fee for 2000-2003 for the development and release of the new test series in 2002, cost of testing materials, answer sheets, postage, etc. it is being recommended that the GED testing fees be structured as follows:

- Regular application fee - \$30.00; to increase to \$45.00 in November 2004 and \$55.00 effective November 2005;
- Re-testing fee - \$4.00;
- Special Application Fee - \$6.00; and
- Transcript Fee - \$5.00

MOVED and SECONDED: That, Effective November 1, 2003, The Board of Regents Approve the Increase in GED Testing Fees, as attached.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

Final Legislative Report

RIDE staff member, Steve Nardelli distributed an updated version of the "Legislation Impacting Education enacted during the 2003 General Assembly Session and Department Responsibilities". He highlighted those pieces of legislation that will impact the responsibilities of the Department of Education.

They include 03S-271 Sub A /03H-5919 Sub A requiring schools to adopt policies that prohibit harassment, intimidation and bullying by students at school. This legislation would require RIDE to develop a model policy

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applicable for grades K-12; 03S-418 Sub A/03H-5350 Sub A which expands the school committee professional development program by adding additional topics by recognizing individuals who complete the program. This legislation would require the Board of Regents to approve the professional development program and create a process for recognizing school committee members that successfully complete the program in part or in whole; 03S-570/03H-5826 which would require applicants for coaching positions in public schools to have an updated first aid certificate and would require the participating schools to require proof of said certificates; 03S-595 Sub A provides that no person who receives a certificate prior to January 8, 2002 be barred from certification based on standardized teacher's exam score; 03S-948/03H-6584 which set standards and a timetable for the implementation of driver education course requirements; and 03H-5663 would require an additional on line posting of all meeting notices and agendas of public bodies which would require department/Regents staff to manage. A complete list of all legislation and resolutions and commissions are attached.

Update on GED Testing Processes

RIDE staff member, Bob Mason again joined the group to talk about changes in the GED testing procedures. He told board members that as of January 1st, 2002 "candidates" began taking a new test that had been developed and is being used nation-wide that measure more content knowledge. There has also been developed a new, improved "transcript" of scores that is being used to more accurately measure a student's knowledge. Additionally, GED is being "marketed" to under-subscribed

groups such as senior citizens and non-English speaking people. The group talked about national trends of non-English speaking and minority individuals taking the GED (especially African-American males); connections to local schools and districts (the “push-out” syndrome); and connections to higher education.

Budget Update/Report on Department Work Week

No Report

Committee Reports

RIDE’s Assistant Commissioner David Abbott reported for Regent Jo Eva Gaines

on the work of the Administrator and Teacher Quality Committee of the Board.

He said that they had met earlier in the day and discussed:

- Upcoming public hearings to be held on Alternative Certification;
- K-12 Administrative Certificate – ongoing discussion with the certification advisory board regarding internships;
- Elementary Test Requirements – need a “date certain” for certification; need to align with ETS test/ drop the PLT for elementary certification;

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- Middle Level – This is our “biggest headache”. Feds have assigned middle level as secondary; therefore, teachers need 30 credits in the content area to be highly qualified. Rhode Island would need to change certification requirements if we decide that our middle school certification should be the same as for “highly qualified”;
- Rhode Island Beginning Teacher Standards – These standards are for ALL teachers. They have been included in our program approval process and higher education is using them to evaluate candidates.
- Teacher Quality Plan – RIDE has been working on the “highly qualified teacher” plan – HOUSSE. Draft distributed and discussed.

Commissioner’s Report

- Director of Information Services, Ed Giroux, had a heart attack three weeks ago. He is doing well, recuperating;

- Regent Jo Eva Gaines daughter has been hired in Providence as the Director of Early Childhood;
- October 9th is the date of the district/school test score roll out. The department is currently verifying some numbers. There are some "head count" issues.
- Re: school openings – went well this year. East Providence was delayed because of building health issues. The two districts currently without teacher contracts went back to work.
- Reading First grant – has been sent back unapproved again. It was re-written and sent back for consideration on Monday.
- The Blue Ribbon Schools will be announced this week. As soon as the feds contact us, we'll notify you;
- Met with Jack Warner, Commissioner of Higher Education, to talk about graduation exit requirements and college entrance requirements.

Executive Session

As per R.I.G.L. 42-46-5, the meeting adjourned at 6:20p.m. for Executive Session.

The meeting reconvened to open session at 6:25p.m.

MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT, the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approve a Salary Increase for a RIDE employee including longevity effective July 1, 2003; and no further salary increase will be granted until such time as the employee's total salary falls within the range and is consistent with performance reviews

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

Adjournment

With unanimous consent the meeting adjourned at 6:26p.m.